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Item 66 of the preliminary list*

Promotion and protection of human rights**Letter dated 20 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Japanese authorities are recently driving the relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan to the worst ever phase, by attempting to internationalize the "abduction issue" already resolved between the two countries.

In April and May of this year alone, Japan decided to ask for cooperation of countries having diplomatic ties with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in this issue, while trying to bring it to the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Summit of the Group of Eight.

The Japanese authorities are seeking to isolate the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through the internationalization of the already resolved "abduction issue" by deliberately bringing it into bold relief, availing themselves of the hostile policy of the United States of America towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in an attempt to craftily evade Japan's obligation to settle its past crimes by spreading false rumours, as if the "abduction issue" were a fundamental one in the relationship between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan.

This relationship is, by its nature, that of a victim and an offender. If the bilateral relationship is to be developed, the latter ought to make due apology and compensation to victims.

I enclose herewith the statement of the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for better comprehension by you and Member States of the actual circumstances regarding the "abduction issue" (see annex).

* A/61/50 and Corr.1.



I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 66 of the preliminary list of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) **Pak Gil Yon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 20 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

13 June, Juche 95 (2006)

Recently, the Japanese authorities are driving DPRK-Japan relations to their worst phase in history by persisting in their moves to internationalize the "abduction issue" already resolved between the DPRK and Japan.

This year alone, in April and May, they made a big fuss, deciding to beg countries having diplomatic ties with the DPRK for official cooperation in the settlement of the issue and sending Megumi Yokota's family to the United States and South Korea to "solicit" help. As if this were not enough, they are trying to take the issue to the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Summit of the Group of Eight.

In trying to internationalize the "abduction issue", which had been solved, by deliberately bringing it into bolder relief, the Japanese authorities seek to isolate the DPRK by taking advantage of the hostile policy of the United States of America towards it and craftily evade the obligation to settle their past crimes by distorting the keynote of DPRK-Japan relations with the "abduction issue".

The relations between the DPRK and Japan are, in essence, those between a victim and an assailant. Therefore, the latter ought to make due apology and compensation to the victim if the bilateral relations are to be settled.

Japan has imposed upon the Korean people immeasurable human, material and mental pain in the past.

Half a century ago, Japan forcibly drafted more than 8.4 million Koreans and committed the cruel murder of over 1 million Koreans. It also abducted and drafted 200,000 Korean women and forced them to serve as "comfort women" for the Japanese Imperial Army. This is the gravest anti-ethical crime, unprecedented in human history.

Nevertheless, Japan has not yet made any honest apology to the Korean people with a humble bow. On the contrary, it has neither admitted its criminal acts nor thought of compensating for them. In the light of the order for the settlement of those crimes and from the moral point of view, Japan should begin with apologizing and compensating for the most hideous crimes it committed against humanity in the last century.

As already clarified by the DPRK more than once, the "abduction issue" had been completely settled thanks to its sincere efforts.

The "abduction issue" is an unsavoury phenomenon that has come out from the special circumstances of hostile relations between the DPRK and Japan. The DPRK, however, has expressed its official regret to the Japanese Government for it and promised prevention of such a recurrence and made its sincere efforts to appreciate the matters raised by the Japanese side in the light of humanitarianism.

The DPRK sent "abductees" and their children to Japan and provided Japan with nearly 50 hours to hear testimonies from those who experienced or witnessed how some "abductees" died to help it confirm their deaths.

And the DPRK has done everything possible, including the handing to Japan of even the things left behind by the deceased and their remains.

In November 2004, the Japanese Government, too, officially expressed thanks, manifesting its understanding of the DPRK's sincere efforts made for the settlement of the "abduction issue".

This being a hard reality, the Japanese authorities are so cunning as to avoid making public the above-said facts at home until now. They are claiming that there exist some "issues to be settled" in a bid to mislead public opinion.

Worse still, the Japanese authorities are stretching out the truth that the deceased are still alive by misusing the materials, which were delivered by the DPRK in good faith. And it is unreasonable enough and not common sense to demand that the DPRK return them to Japan.

How Japan is so brazenfaced can be found in this fact. Though the Japanese side personally met Megumi Yokota's husband, they said they were doubtful that the man was her real husband. It also asserted that the handed-over remains of the wife by her husband were false, but it still does not give it back to the bereaved family.

The "abduction issue" is distorted and exaggerated as an "outstanding" issue in the Japanese land. A contributing factor for this is the betrayal act of the Japanese authorities who are so unfaithful in abusing the above-said issue for the realization of their political strategy from A to Z.

If the Japanese authorities have a true will to resolve the "abduction issue", they should, of course, clearly inform the bereaved family of the victims and their relatives about the DPRK's sincere efforts and the true picture of the matter. And they should no longer play any kind of tricks of misleading public opinion, which will only deepen suspicions in the minds of the people.

By internationalizing the issue they seek to isolate the DPRK and get their "leadership ability" esteemed at home and instil a new "view of the State" based on ultra-nationalism in Japan and thus justify their policy of militarization.

The Japanese authorities would be well advised to ponder the serious impact the current situation will have on the overall relations between the DPRK and Japan.

The world will not move as desired by the Japanese subjective opinion.

No matter how hard they may peddle the "abduction issue" in a bid to cover up the crimes committed against all the Koreans, our people will blame Japan for all its past crimes and force it to pay for them.



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Item 87 (k) of the preliminary list*

General and complete disarmament

Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/61. It summarizes the activities recently undertaken by the partner departments and partner agency of the high-level Steering Group on Disarmament and Development in areas related to the subject.

* A/61/50 and Corr.1.



I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/61, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development". In that resolution, the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development (A/59/119), and requested the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, and to report to the Assembly at its sixty-first session.

II. Action taken

Activities undertaken by partner departments and partner agency of the Steering Group

2. The present report summarizes the activities related to disarmament and development undertaken by the partner departments and partner agency of the high-level Steering Group on Disarmament and Development since the last report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/60/94).

3. The United Nations inter-agency working group on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration was established by the Executive Committee on Peace and Security and mandated to carry out the work of improving the Organization's performance in the area of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Fifteen departments, agencies, funds and programmes¹ are represented in the inter-agency working group, and together they have developed new policies and concepts for planning and implementing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations in a peacekeeping context. These policies and concepts are known as the integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards.

4. The integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards recognize the links between disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the need to coordinate this work with longer-term development strategies, including development programmes. Central to this approach to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, which is described in the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/60/705), is the need to situate this process within the wider recovery strategies and to ensure that any disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes are coordinated with the wider peace, recovery and development frameworks.

5. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in chapter V of its forthcoming publication *World Economic and Social Survey 2006*, examines the role

¹ Department for Disarmament Affairs, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Department of Political Affairs, Department of Public Information, International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, United Nations Population Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Food Programme, World Health Organization.

of institutions in accounting for the slow and sometimes negative growth of developing countries. Many of them are, paradoxically, rich in natural resources but suffer from conflict that has been driven and sustained by the ready availability of armaments. The chapter outlines the direct and indirect effects of armed conflicts on economic development and how even internal conflicts have a regional dimension. It shows, however, that resource-rich countries are not doomed to slow growth often caused by conflict. Indeed, through the development of institutions that produce a just and fair distribution of the wealth generated by natural resources, such resources could be a positive benefit to a country rather than a source and means to finance armed conflict.

6. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has supported more than 40 countries in addressing the issue of small arms control, armed violence reduction and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as part of its commitment to promoting human security and sustainable development and to assisting countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

7. UNDP support in the areas of small arms control and armed violence reduction has expanded over the years. UNDP now seeks to promote longer-term, multi-phase programming strategies that combine limiting weapons availability with efforts to explore and address the demand factors and the deeper causes of armed violence. By linking measures to improve security with the promotion of alternative livelihoods and the strengthening of national and local capacities, UNDP actively promotes both the human security and sustainable development dimensions of disarmament-related issues.

8. At the policy level, UNDP has also played an active role in promoting the linkage between armed violence and development. On 7 June 2006, UNDP, together with the Government of Switzerland, hosted a high-level ministerial summit in Geneva during which participating countries agreed to adopt concrete measures to reduce the negative impact of armed violence on sustainable development. These commitments are embodied in the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, which also aims to make significant contributions to the global policy dialogue on armed violence prevention and reduction, and to the further integration of security and development agendas.

9. UNDP has also supported the development of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes both in peacekeeping and non-peacekeeping contexts. It has also contributed to creating a foundation for sustainable peace and development through disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes by providing alternative livelihoods for ex-combatants and those associated with armed forces and their dependents. UNDP has also helped to build trust between these high-risk groups and receiving communities.

10. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes are situated squarely at the intersection between peacebuilding, security sector reform and socio-economic rehabilitation, and as such are a central element in wider peace, recovery and development frameworks and strategies. In this context, UNDP places priority on supporting national actors in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts. Its work on institutional capacity development is complemented by a strong focus on enhancing the capacities of local authorities and communities to engage effectively in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

11. UNDP has also facilitated the development of a new policy approach — integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards — in cooperation with other partners, and of several integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards modules, including ones on disarmament and arms control, security and development, with inputs from the Department for Disarmament Affairs. At the operational level, UNDP has been working closely with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on piloting integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Sudan and Haiti within the framework of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti respectively.

12. The Department for Disarmament Affairs has focused its policy orientation and strengthened its human capacity to assist States in Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of disarmament and development, with the aim of offering improved assistance to States in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC) has directed its disarmament and development efforts at policy dialogue; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration issues; good governance activities; and support to public security initiatives.

13. As part of the larger Central American firearms project, UN-LiREC is currently supporting two projects in Costa Rica and Guatemala, which are aimed at reducing the impact of firearms violence on development. In December 2005 and March 2006, UN-LiREC carried out discussions with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean to further incorporate disarmament and development activities into the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

14. In the context of promoting a peaceful environment conducive to socio-economic development, the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa of the Department for Disarmament Affairs continued the implementation of its project on the theme "Small arms transparency and control regime in Africa". The participating States (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Gabon, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Togo) reached agreement on an operational definition of transparency in arms transfers within the framework of the project. National inventories on the local capacities of the production of small arms and light weapons were conducted in the participating States as a first step towards the adoption of legislation to regulate weapons manufactures. Participating States also agreed on a framework that led to the establishment and operation of an arms register and a database comprising eight categories of data: importations, exportations, manufactures, holdings, collections and seizures, donations, licenses and surpluses.